Amendments to the Claims

In the Claims, please amend the claims as follows:

(canceled) 1 -8.

(canceled) 9 - 24.

(new) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising:

preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metalcontaining compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles.

wherein said mixed-metal particles are a single-phase metal oxide.

- (new) A method according to claim 25, wherein the particles comprise Cu and In 26. and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.
- (new) A method according to claim 25, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and 27. Ga.
- (new) A method according to claim 25, wherein said droplets are heated in an 28. oxidizing atmosphere.
- (new) A method according to claim 28, wherein said atmosphere comprises 29. oxygen.
 - (new) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising:

preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metalcontaining compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise a non-oxide phase.

- (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise a metal oxide phase and a non-oxide phase.
 - (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-metal particles are 32.



multinary metallic particles.

- (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase
- (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the particles comprise Cu and In 34. and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.
- (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and 35. Ga.
- (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the droplets are heated in a 36. reducing atmosphere.
- (new) A method according to claim 36, wherein the atmosphere comprises 37. hydrogen.
 - (new) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising: 38.

preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metalcontaining compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB:

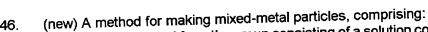
forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles.

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise multiple metal oxide phases.

- (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase
- (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein the particles comprise Cu and In and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.
- (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and 41. Ga.
- (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein said droplets are heated in a non-42. oxidizing atmosphere.
- (new) A method according to claim 42, wherein said atmosphere comprises 43. nitrogen.
- (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein said droplets are heated in a substantially inert atmosphere.
- (new) A method according to claim 44, wherein said atmosphere comprises 45. nitrogen.





preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from the group Cu, In and Ga;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise multiple metal oxide phases.

- (new) A method according to claim 46, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase
- (new) A method according to claim 46, wherein the particles have an average 48. diameter of less than about 1 micron.
- (new) A method according to claim 46, wherein said droplets are heated in a 49. substantially inert atmosphere.
- (new) A method according to claim 46, wherein the droplets are heated in a 50. reducing atmosphere.